

REMARKS

Examiner's comments in the Office Action marked "FINAL" and dated February 12, 2007 have been read and carefully considered by Applicants. In view of such comments, Applicants have amended the set of claims in the present Application as set forth hereinabove. In particular, all claims 1-26 have been amended. No new claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-26 remain pending in Applicants' present Application for Examiner's consideration.

At the present time, it is Applicants' good faith belief that the pending claims, as presented herein, are both novel and non-obvious with respect to all prior art of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully aver that the pending claims now place the present Application in a condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification:

In the Office Action, Examiner objected to various amendments made by Applicants to the specification in Applicants' recently submitted Supplemental Amendment dated October 23, 2006. In particular, Examiner objected to some of the amendments to the specification as impermissibly adding new matter to the specification that was not included in the Application as originally filed by Applicants.

In response, Applicants have herein amended the specification per Examiner's objections and comments. In view of such, it is now Applicants' good faith belief that the specification as herein amended does not include any new matter. In particular, Applicants believe that all amendments to the specification, as set forth hereinabove, are fully supported by the text and/or drawing figures contained in Applicants' Application as originally filed. In view of such, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Objections to the Claims:

Also, in the Office Action, Examiner objected to the claims for being amended by Applicants in the aforementioned Supplemental Response so as to include the limitation "circumferentially conductive." In particular, Examiner indicated that such a limitation was not adequately described in the Application as originally filed by Applicants and is not reasonably clear to one skilled in the relevant art.

In response, Applicants have herein amended the claims so that the "circumferentially conductive" limitation is no longer set forth therein. In view of such, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's objections to the claims be withdrawn.

Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C § 112:

Furthermore, in the Office Action, Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the statutory written description requirement thereunder. In particular, Examiner asserts that the claim limitation "circumferentially conductive" contains subject matter that is not described in the specification in such a way so as to reasonably convey its intended meaning to one skilled in the relevant art.

In response, as mentioned above, Applicants have herein amended the claims so that the "circumferentially conductive" limitation is no longer set forth therein. In view of such, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Lastly, in the Office Action, Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and therefore unpatentable in view of various combinations of prior art references cited by Examiner.

In response, Applicants have herein amended the claims so as to overcome all of Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In particular, Applicants have herein amended the claims so as to claim an "imaging coil" including a "central ring" that is "adapted for being coupled to a ground reference" during operation of the imaging coil. Upon reviewing the prior art references cited by Examiner in the Office Action, Applicants believe that such prior art references, either alone individually or in combination with each other, neither teach nor suggest such a "ground reference" limitation as now claimed by Applicants. (Applicants' specification, see ¶ 0006, 0010, and 0035). In addition, the Reisker reference cited by Examiner does not even teach a "central ring." Furthermore, none of the references teach or suggest Applicants' claimed "imaging coil" including both a "central ring" and "end rings" in which the end rings have radii that are greater than the radius of the central ring. (Applicants' specification, see ¶ 0006, 0007, 0024, 0025, 0034). In view of such, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

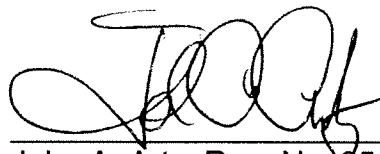
CONCLUSION

In view of the claims as amended and also the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-26 are all novel and non-obvious with respect to the prior art of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that all of Examiner's rejections in the Office Action be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for all claims 1-26.

Should Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 433-7200.

Respectfully submitted,

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